

FINAL
COLORADO September 26, 2008
Colorado Municipal League
1144 Sherman Street
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Chair – Attorney General John Suthers

Vice –Chairs:

- *Treatment* – Janet Wood, Director, Behavioral Health Services, CDHS
- *Prevention* – José Esquibel, Director, Interagency Prevention Systems, CDPHE
- *Law Enforcement* – Lori Moriarty, Commander, Thornton Police, Department, North Metro Drug Task Force

Attendees:

Carmelita Muniz, Janet Rowland, Stan Hilkey, Nicolas Taylor, Kathryn Wells, Jade Thomas, Drew DeMarie, Tom Quinn, Wayne Maxwell, Erin Goff, Susan White (for Jeanneene Miller) Greg Daniels, Debra Campeau, Ryan Brock, Chele Clark, Janelle Kruger, Jeannie Smith, Larry , Bert Singleton

Guest: Angie Wickersham, Barbara Ezyk, Nick Werth, Christine Agosta, Kent MacLennan, Jim Gerhardt, Mark Conney, Julia Roguski, Susannah Carroll, Larry Murray, Jim Adams-berger, Summer Collins

Introductions – Attorney General Suthers welcomed the group

Review and Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2008. Minutes were moved and accepted with noted changes.

Announcements from Task Force Members:

Janet Wood -

The 1st national meth drug task force summit will be in Washington DC, Nov 16 – 19, 2008. Vice Chair Wood has sent in a letter of intent from our state to participate in this meeting. We will be competing against 16 other states. It will be very worthwhile for Colorado to participate in this summit. If we are selected to participate there are a number of things that we must do by next week. Let Janet know if you want to attend this meeting. Does it look like we have a good chance of being one of the states able to attend? Yes, it looks very good.

Nick Taylor

Delta Project – Admissions are down and we are not sure if it is due to the fact our project is working or if the media attention has caused the reduction in meth arrests and activities.

We are having the first Sunday cops vs. cons softball game.

Camileta Muniz

Recovery Program – This was Recovery month and a group came together to hold an event at the capitol that was attended by over 200. Many of the participants were addicts in recovery and this was the first time this has ever been done. It was a recovery rally that included a walk

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and run. Mr. Suthers was the speaker for this event.

Erin Goff

The new Colorado Municipal League magazine was discussed and it was pointed out there is an article about the State Meth Task Force in the magazine, authored by Vice-Chair Esquibel.

Debra Campeau

4th Judicial event is being held at the Air Force Academy. Mr. Suthers was the opening speaker and did a great job.

SBIRT update- José Esquibel

We have been working with the Colorado Clinical Guideline Collaborative on the creation of clinical guidelines for physicians and health care professionals regarding substance use screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT). A double-sided 1 pager guideline has been completed and is being distributed to over 9,000 primary care physicians. An event was held at the Governor's mansion to introduce the guidelines. The event went very well. To date, over 20,000 individuals have received a screening, and only 2% of those who screened positive for high-risk use of alcohol or other drugs needed treatment.

An effort is being made to activate the Medicaid codes for substance use screening and intervention, which requires legislative action. Also, several health plans have indicated they would pay for substance use screening and intervention services.

Wayne Maxwell

In Weld County we have established the 19th district court as an adult court. Medicaid proposal is due out next week.

Presentation— Adams County: State Meth Task Force/Drug Endangered Children Learning Sites —Sgt. Jim Gerhardt, Thornton Police Department

We have always believed that law enforcement cannot do this work alone. You need to include all other groups, fire, courts, mental health personal, and finally child welfare. The Thornton Police Department has implemented a Child Protection Project to bridge law enforcement with social services. The core leaders are:

Supervisor Emily Camp – Adams County Social Services Department (ACSSD)

Sergeant Jim Gerhardt – Thornton Police Department (TPD)

Commander Jerry Peters – TPD

The intent of the Child Protection Project is to:

- Identify abuse and neglect victims
- Comply with mandatory reporting requirements
- Work collaboratively with partner organizations (changing outcomes)

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An effort has been made to study the impact of this project:

- Surveys were administered to patrol officers and intake workers - all shifts were surveyed.
- Training – the surveys showed where the gaps in training were
- After-action reporting and evaluations – good chance to discuss and improve the training and relationships
- Post-pilot surveys – we looked at this to see if we were making change
- Court and trails review of pilot cases
- Patrol implementation – we have started to do training to all groups. We still are meeting some resistance, but overall things are improving

Recap – June 2007

Officers believe they were appropriately reporting child abuse and neglect.

Officers felt they notified social services when appropriate.

Officers did not feel they needed to change behaviors

Training Issues

Drug endangered children have special needs

Social services and immediate response criteria issues

Protective custody of children – procedures and explanations

Training

Immediate call list is what we came up with from the social services

We need to focus on the neglect factor. This is not a factor that a lot of people pay attention to.

After Action reports

Supervisor discussion with officers

Promoted discussion and evaluation of incidents

Helped overcome “learning curve” issues

Assisted supervisors with identifying

Police Role

Always consider criminal charges – when should you do this?

Stand-by with social services – active investigations – have the officers put their critical thinking in place

Child abuse and contributing to delinquency – common

Recommendations

C.R.S. Title 18

- Creation of criminal child neglect statute - there is no law, we are not asking for new authority
- Language for drug situations
- Felony
- Clean up of language

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18-6-401. Child abuse

18-6-402. (1)(a) A person commits child abuse if such person permits a child to be unreasonable placed in a situation that poses a threat of injury to the child's life or health

A person commits child abuse if such person:

Threat of injury to life or health

Unreasonable

18-6-401 Child Abuse

Recommend language per Lori and her group

(1) (c) (l) A person commits child abuse if, in the presence of a child, or on the premises where a child is found, or where a child resides, or in a vehicle containing a child, the person knowingly engages in the manufacture or attempted manufacture of a controlled substance

- Unlawful possession use, cultivation, or distribution of a controlled substance or marijuana.
- Exposing children to the smoke, vapor, or residue of a controlled substance or marijuana.

Example of Abuse - 3 small children were found and social services came and took children to hospital, due to injuries that on the children. While at the hospital they found other injuries from abuse. During the interview the children told all the beatings as if the beating were commonplace incidents. The DA, who worked on this case, said there is nothing in the statute to prevent this type of abuse. Finally, they were able to get the father on more serious charges; do you know that animals have more protection than those small children?

Questions:

- As a result of this work was a policy implemented? Yes, Thornton did put a policy in place.
- Communities whose law enforcement and social services collaborate, how does it affect the budget issues? What is the impact on the budgets? Emily looked at this side. From the officers' side of things, it is not costing anything but time. Social services only get a small amount of referrals from the police dept. The schools do more referrals. Return on investment – officers became so invested that the officers returned to some of the homes to recheck. On the drug cases, we re-checked the homes.
- Mr. Suthers suggests that an appointment be made with Tom Raines to discuss these items. Once we see some language, this group can review this issue again.
- How is this being accepted by other agencies in your county? In terms of Adams County this was presented to the Link Board. There is high-level interest to have some training. We want to be sure that we are very rooted in this before promoting in as a practice to be looked at by other communities. We want to be sure we are very solid in our way of thinking and doing business. We are keeping it small. If the statute and or language were in the law, it would help to get this training going.
- This is great work! We understand that you still need to do some work but it would be

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tragic if we don't financially support this effort; create a document and collect data to go forward. We want and need to get it out to all communities. We want to make sure that we have a solid project to share. Share this data with all your contacts. The key to this is to get your mid level personal involved.

- DEC is looking at picking some sites to do with which to write a white paper.

Update on Meth Media Campaigns in Colorado

- Crystal Darkness Campaign: There have been two planning meetings so far. Colorado Drug Endangered Children sent out information to as many contacts for which they had information. The Colorado Broadcasting Association is willing to send out the message but we want to be sure that we are reaching the right person. We can't miss this opportunity. Crystal Darkness doesn't bring in the awful part of meth; it brings in more of the recovery and treatment to focus. One key question is what do we want for Colorado after the 28 minute TV spot? The air date is January 7th from 6:30pm-7:00pm. Everyone needs to be aware of it. An executive committee will be formed. We will be recruiting from our pool of partners through Colorado DEC and we will need various individuals to be interviewed for the program. Jade Thomas will keep you informed of the progress.

Colorado Meth Project – Kent MacLennan

- We are going to have a Colorado Meth Project and we will be getting funding to do this. We will be using the data to base recommendation on.
- The mission is to dramatically reduce meth use. This is being based on the Montana Meth project. We are taking the knowledge from Montana and applying it to Colorado. How does this apply and affect the state users?
 - 2 ways –
 - Public awareness campaign. Several months to reach the audience. 12 – 17 age group. Media blitz. Done in 30 second spots, media bill boards, TV ads,
 - Community action – taking this to the communities to implement positive activities. This will be using local community base coalitions to help bring the message forward. "Paint the State" campaign in Montana was a huge success. It allowed the youth to paint their message across the state; cows, barns etc were painted.
- We have created a board of directors, Mr. Suthers as well as Daniels Fund and Coors Foundation. Tom Siegel is also part of this board. We are working on securing funding for this project. In October we will be meeting with community leaders to help create a Board to help get the message out across the state. This small group will review the data and to provide guidance with how the campaign is run. The baseline meth user study will be conducted this fall to start collecting data to base our efforts on. Looking at an early 2009 launch date.
- How is the data being distributed? It will be a random study, large, small demo areas. How are you going to do this? We are going to do phone survey and website survey.

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Legislation Committee Update —Dr. Kathryn Wells

- An important issue has emerged related to women and prenatal exposure to meth. More women are using meth during pregnancy therefore more babies being born positive for meth. A lot of other issues come into play with this, women's right, etc.
- Policy needs to be created. How do we help women receive services without having their baby removed, as is being done with policy in other states? If we can get to these mothers before they become involved with meth we can help to save the babies. How do we do this? Many states are now passing laws that make it illegal for mothers to use during pregnancy. Some states have also passed a civil statute. In our state, we do have something written as a civil statute.
- We would like to get a group together and create a policy or a statement about this issue. A small committee of the State Meth Task Force did meet and we have a good representation of people from across the board. We discussed our goals and provided literature for the group to review. This committee is reviewing what other states have done and compile what the different opinions are there. It would be good to have a unified response to give to the communities. What things should be address; review the literature prior to the next committee meeting which is Tuesday October 21, 2008, 9:30am-11:00pm. E-mail Jade Thomas if you are interested in the materials.

Data Discussion—Jim Adams-Berger and Summer Collins from OMNI

- The goal is to have an update to the meth data report by the November meeting of the State Meth Task Force
- An important question is: What is the role and purpose of data overtime for this group?
- Should we have a central depository for data on alcohol and drug use and related issues? Yes, this makes a lot of sense to do this. Put relevant drug use data together a centralized site; in a depository that will create an infrastructure.
- On the criminal side of it, most people are not in jail due to drugs, which the data indicates for Mesa County.
- Is there any way to show overlap? It will depend on how you have the data link. This group will be able to look at the ways to look at the data that overlap. Next steps would be to see how we want the data shared and linked? This group would have to look at the ways to link the data.
- What are some of the questions? What do you want to monitor over time. Data to back up the questions we may have regarding indicators and causes. It is suggested that we have a small group and work on these questions from that small group.
- How do we inform ourselves as a group on how we work better together based on data?
- For the November presentation the data will be done by drug, statewide and county information. If there is an indicator that is not part of this, let us know and we will see what we can do.
- The update of the November 2006 data report will be included in the Annual State Meth Task Force Report by January 1, 2009. Once we do this, remember we will still have more time after Jan 1st to expand the data report before the end of 2009.

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Questions

- Is there a way to track adult probation with children in the home? No.
 - Data collection is not mandated. Everyone that collects data does it on their own. Data just stays in the community that is being collected in.
 - We can do some data matches in the treatment side.
- Be sure that OMNI and Ken's group talks about the data being collected.

Best Practices— Vice Chair Wood

- We will be asking for assistance from members in contacting individuals who can assist with populating the State Meth Task Force website with best practices for addressing meth issues in communities. We will attempt to get information on best practices from each area represented on the State Meth Task Force. In the next couple of months you will be receiving a notice requesting the information and instructions for submitting the information.

Colorado DEC Updates— Jade Thomas

- Weld County will hold a County Substance Abuse Strategic Planning Summit October 24th
- The SMTF Web site will be live in the next couple of weeks.
- Colorado DEC Conference
 - There is the thought of holding a conference related to the issues of drug endangered children in April, May or June of 2009. We would like to do this in conjunction with the State Meth Task Force? Yes, we would like to work together on this conference.

Next meeting:

November 21, 2008, 10:00am – 1:00pm, Colorado Municipal League